

GREENBERG CONSULTANTS INC.

Oct. 10, 2008

Chair, Toronto Public Library Board
789 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON M4W 2G8

NAMING THE TORONTO REFERENCE LIBRARY FOR JANE JACOBS

Dear Chair and Board Members,

I am writing to lend my strong support to the proposal to rename the Toronto Reference Library the **Jane Jacobs Library**. An avid reader, researcher and user of libraries Jane's insatiable curiosity about the way things are led her to write a remarkable series of highly original and influential books and articles starting with the extraordinary *Death and Life of Great American Cities* in 1961. Through these works and her highly selected but always powerful interventions on major public issues, Jane Jacobs, perhaps more than any other thinker in this century, has profoundly changed the ways in which we think about that most complex of human artefacts, the city, as well as profound reflections on economics, natural science and the general connectedness of things in entirely new ways.

It is not entirely a coincidence that Ms. Jacobs chose Toronto as her adopted home in the 1960's, in part having come to despair of the future of the future of cities in her native United States. In the interim, perhaps to our own surprise, Toronto became a city which is noted for its diverse, lively, humane, and even occasionally delightful qualities. To a much greater degree than is generally recognised, Jane Jacobs, through her penetrating wisdom, tireless scholarship, and unflinching common sense, gave us the courage to become what we are. She inspired and deeply influenced several generations of decision-makers, activists, creators and investors to take a second, often irreverent look at the received wisdom of established practices and break new ground, seeing value and vital connections where none were apparent.

I cannot think of any more appropriate way of acknowledging the great debt we all owe to Jane Jacobs.

Sincerely,



Ken Greenberg
Principal

October 22, 2008

Kathy Gallagher Ross

Chair, Toronto Public Library Board

798 Yonge Street

Toronto M4W 2G8

Kathy,

I am writing to support the re-naming of the Metro Reference Library to the Jane Jacobs Reference Library in honour of a woman who championed the efforts to make Toronto a livable city.

Regards,

Ken

To: Kathy Gallagher Ross,
Chair, Toronto Public Library Board
798 Yonge Street
Toronto M4W 2G8

From: Lorraine

October 22, 2008

Dear Kathy Gallagher Ross,

I recently heard about a proposal being championed by Councillor Vaughan, to rename the Metro Reference Library the Jane Jacobs Reference Library.

I am writing to you to urge the Toronto Public Library Board to support this.

Many thanks,

Lorraine



Kathy Gallagher Ross,
Chair of the Toronto Public Library Board
798 Yonge Street
Toronto M4W 2G8

OCT 27 2008

Re: The Jane Jacobs Reference Library

Dear Ms Ross;

I am writing to support the initiative to rename the Metro Reference Library the Jane Jacobs Reference Library. The Centre for City Ecology is an organization dedicated to furthering Jane's ideas and legacy, and we would be delighted to have such a valuable learning institution bear her name.

Jane was an avid library user and researcher. As a life long learner she inspired those around her to investigate their neighbourhoods and their cities in her books, articles and public appearances. As a public intellectual, Jane spoke passionately about many vital issues during the three decades she lived in Toronto. The economics, built form, politics, creativity and social connectivity of urban centres, here and around the world, have been profoundly affected by Jane's writings.

From her house on Albany Avenue in the Annex, Jane spoke with her neighbours, colleagues, activists and the decision-makers of the day – including planners, architects and politicians. Her influence on the world has been profound. In Toronto she urged us to inquire into who we are as neighbours and citizens and how we can cultivate connection across difference and social and geographic barriers.

Jane Jacobs never settled for easy answers. She was always looking for more information or another perspective. She opened her mind to unconventional wisdom and shone bright lights in dark corners, undaunted by convention or the fear of offending. Naming our finest public reference library in Jane's honour would be a fitting and dazzling tribute.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Farrow'.

Jane Farrow,
Executive Director, Centre for City Ecology and Jane's Walk

On behalf of the CCE Advisory Board:

Max Allen,
Alan Broadbent,
Hannah Evans,
Ann Peters,
Mary Rowe,
Linda Weichel,
Margie Zeidler

From: Trevor

October 23, 2008

Toronto Public Library Board
To: Chair
798 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON, M4W 2G8

007 18 PWS

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would just like to voice my support of Councillor Adam Vaughan's new suggestion that the Toronto Reference Library be renamed in Jane Jacob's memory. Jane was one of the brightest lights in our city's intellectual history, and I can think of no more fitting tribute to her legacy than to give her name to one of the greatest public spaces our city has to offer (with the exception of, perhaps, a well-trodden stretch of sidewalk somewhere).

I hope the Public Library Board gives this tribute a fair discussion, and I'm certain that you'll find the city will firmly embrace the new name in remembrance

Respectfully yours,

Trevor

Support of the Naming of TRL for Jane Jacobs

>>> " . . . Sasha"

29/10/2008 2:37 pm >>>

To Whom It May Concern;

As Toronto goes through a building revolution, with renovations and new construction, it is great to see that public money is being spent on a building like the Toronto Reference Library. It is a place for learning, studying, gathering, and most importantly enjoying downtown Toronto.

The reason for my letter is in support of renaming the library, The Jane Jacobs Reference Library. Jacob's book, the Death and Life of Great American Cities, changed the way traditional planners looked at cities. As a Toronto resident for 40 years and a supporter of balanced development and growth it seems fitting to name the library after her. After all she believed a neighbourhood would flourish when mixed with new and old buildings that had a variety of restaurants and services around it. No intersection in Toronto seems more fitting than Bloor and Yonge with all it has to offer.

Thank you,

Sasha

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27/10/2008 7:23 pm >>>

I would like to add my voice to the chorus that are calling for the Metro Reference Library to be renamed the Jane Jacobs Reference Library. I believe it would be an honour to a great person who chose to make Toronto her home. It would also be an inspiration to students and other people using the Library - Jane was a fantastic example of someone who decided to care about something and prove that one person can make a difference in their community.

Sincerely,

David

>>> Christopher

24/10/2008 9:20 am >>>

Hello,

I recently read about the proposal to rename the TRL to the "Jane Jacobs Reference Library". I would like to indicate my support for this initiative. I think it would be wonderful to memorialize her, and I can't think of a more appropriate venue. Thanks.

-Christopher

>>> "Marta

; 23/10/2008 11:43 pm >>>

Hello,

It has recently come to my attention that there is a proposition to rename the Toronto Reference Library as the Jane Jacobs Reference Library. As an avid user of the TPL system and the Reference Library specifically, I think this is a fantastic idea. Our Reference library is certainly one of the best in the world, and it truly is a cultural hub for the city. Jane Jacobs, in turn, is one of the most influential and important people to be associated with Toronto in the 21st century. I think renaming the Reference Library in her honour would be a dignified way to honour a local luminary.

Thank you,
Marta

>>> Bill

23/10/2008 9:25 pm >>>

Please add my name to the list of those in favour of renaming the reference library to the Jane Jacobs Reference Library. Brilliant idea!

Bill

>>> "Ajay

; 23/10/2008 6:00 pm >>>

Chair, Toronto Public Library Board
798 Yonge Street
Toronto, ON
M4W 2G8

Dear Chair,

This email correspondence is to indicate my ardent support to rename the Toronto Reference Library to the Jane Jacobs Reference Library.

There are few people that I have come across in this city that have made such an indelible impact on me, how I live and I see what I want for the city I live in. Loving Toronto is

synonymous with admiration and respect for such a figure who gave her life to empowering the people of this great city. She empowered us to think beyond ourselves and to find ourselves on the city sidewalks and in the people that use them. Similarly, the TRL empowers young and old minds alike to broaden themselves like Jane did for all of us.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Sincerely,
Ajay

>>> "Kerry
Dear Ms. Ross,

23/10/2008 5:20 pm >>>

I'm in agreement with Councillor Adam Vaughan and *Spacing* magazine. It would be a great tribute to Jane Jacobs' memory if the Toronto Reference Library was renamed in her honour.

Best regards,
Kerry

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>>> Ian
To whom it may concern,

23/10/2008 4:18 pm >>>

I saw on the Spacing Wire [<http://spacing.ca/wire>] that there has been a motion by Councillor Adam Vaughn to rename the Toronto Reference Library to the "Jane Jacobs Reference Library." As a frequent user of the reference library and as an occasional student of urban history, I can't think of a better way to both honour Jane Jacobs and to, as

spacing says, "rechristen this wonderful building."

Thank you for your time. Regards,

Ian

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>>> "Nick"
Hi,

23/10/2008 3:28 pm >>>

I just want to voice my support for Councillor Vaughan's initiative to rename the Toronto Reference Library to the Jane Jacobs Reference Library.

Thanks.

Nick

>>> "Marc"
Hello,

23/10/2008 3:07 pm >>>

I would like to voice my support for the campaign to rename the Toronto Reference Library the 'Jane Jacobs Reference Library.'

It's a great idea, and a great way to honour Jane's amazing influence on how we talk about cities. The renaming would send a strong message to other cities – Toronto honours, respects and supports the work of intellectuals, artists, innovators and 'big thinkers.'

Thanks,

Marc

>>> Roberto Dante Martella <rdm@grano.ca> 18/10/2008 1:22 pm >>>
Ciao Adam,

Following up on our telephone conversation, I am delighted to wholeheartedly support the initiative to name Toronto's Reference Library after Jane Jacobs.

When, and if, appropriate I would be delighted to host a dinner to mark this significant Toronto moment.

I also believe that a statue of Jane (or an artist's rendering of her signature glasses on the side of the building!) would serve to underscore both the testimonial and the importance of our library system.

Congratulations on your most sensitive and sensible initiative.

a presto

Roberto

Roberto Dante Martella
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